8:Kostenko 147-C-4,5 (1868-80)1880 RL1 Turkestar RL1

Kuldja

361 The town Kuldja discussed here is also
133 called "Old Kuldja" or "Taranchi Kuldja", as distinguished from "New Kuldja" or "Chinese Kuldja" which was destroyed in 1866, and was 35 versts southwest of the old town. Old Kuldja is situated in the broad valley of the river Ili, on its right bank, 3 versts from the river. Near Kuldja the Ili flows between wide banks, a broad and well-watered river. The right bank is steeper than the left both here and along the entire course of the river. Its width is about 136 feet. It is crossed by three ferryboats, maintained by a Russian businessman. It flows so swiftly, especially when there is a wind, so that the crossing is slow. The river freezes over 60 days a year, from the end of December to the end of February. Wood has long been floated down the Ili from the upper reaches to the middle course of the river.

• [134] The soil in the environs of the town is
132 sandy loam and very fertile. The climate of Kuldja is warm, healthy and pleasant. Although
341 the summer heat here goes up to 41° centigrade in the shade, the heat is modified considerably by the summer rains. Because of the spring rains, grain takes root in the environs of Kuldja even without watering. The winters here are uniform, and the snow remains on the ground up to a month and a half. The cold in winter reaches 32° centigrade.

The Kuldja valley is protected by high mountains from all sides except the west, and apparently this fact goes far to explain the moderateness of the climate, which notwithstanding, permits the growing of delicate trees and